

Remarks

The Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 36-39 and 41-43 and the indication of allowability for claims 26 and 27.

The Applicant has amended claims 23 and 26 in response to the rejections under section 112 to remove the language cited in the rejections. The Applicant respectfully requests the section 112 rejections of these claims to be withdrawn.

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 44. The claim recites the combination of the two elements before the outer muntin grid element is wrapped around the inner muntin grid element. The Applicant thus submits the "adapted to fold around" language in the claim is appropriate.

The Applicant has amended claim 23 to clarify that the outer muntin grid element surrounds the inner muntin grid element. In view of this amendment, the Applicant has amended claim 33 to be a dependent claim that depends from claim 23.

The present Office Action rejects claims 23 as being anticipated by Reed, US Patent 4,567,710. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claim 23 requires the outer muntin grid elements to surround the inner muntin grid elements to completely hide the internal muntin bar grid from view. The Applicant respectfully submits Reed does not have elements that meet these limitations.

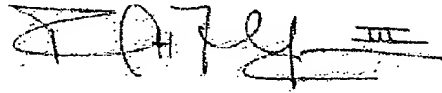
Figs. 13 and 14 of Reed disclose plastic connectors (9) used to secure the longitudinal edges of the Reed I-beams to the inner surface of the glass. The Reed plastic connectors (9) do not, in any Reed embodiment, surround the entire I-beam to hide the I-beam from view. In all of the Reed embodiments, the main web (34) of the Reed I-beam is always visible. The Reed connectors (9) never hide the main web (34). Claim 23 requires the outer muntin grid element structure to hide the entire inner muntin grid element about which it is disposed. Hiding the inner muntin grid element is an important aspect of the invention because the invention allows the inner muntin grid element s to be roughly formed and unpainted because they are hidden from view. Reed does not anticipate claim 23 and does not suggest the configuration recited in claim 23.

The Office Action rejected independent claim 44 as being obvious in view of Reed in combination with Kassl, US Patent 5,351,459. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Claim 44 recites the combination of inner and outer muntin grid elements wherein the outer muntin grid element has a width substantially equal to the cross sectional perimeter dimension of the inner muntin grid element. This allows the outer element to be wrapped around the inner element as shown in FIGS. 37-42 of the application. Claim 44 has been amended to require the outer element to define a corner notch for at least three of the corners of the inner element. Reed does not disclose an outer muntin grid element that has a width substantially equal to the cross sectional perimeter dimension of the inner muntin grid element. Further, nothing in Reed discloses the corner notches required by claim 44. The Applicant thus submits Reed does not show all of the limitations of claim 44. Applicant respectfully submits the Office Action does not establish a prima facie case of obviousness because the cited references do not disclose or suggest all of the claim limitations.

Claim 69 requires each of the outer muntin grid elements to be in the form of a unitary tube. The claim recites that the tube surrounds the longitudinal edges and longitudinal sides of the inner muntin bar elements. Reed does not disclose such tubes. As noted above, the Reed reference only discloses connectors that cover the edges of the I-beams. The sides of the I-beam are never surrounded with the Reed connectors. Claim 69 and its dependent claims are thus patentable over Reed whether taken alone or in combination with Baier.

The Applicant respectfully submits the dependent claims are patentable in view of the patentability of the independent claims. The Applicant further submits the dependent claims recited independently patentable subject matter. In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims and most earnestly solicits the issuance of a formal notice of allowance for the claims. If any issues remain after this amendment, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,



By: Fred H. Zollinger, III

Reg. No. 39,438

P.O. Box 2368

North Canton, Ohio 44720

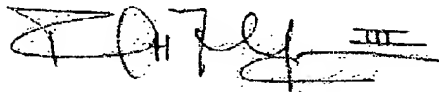
Telephone: (330) 526-0104

Facsimile: (866) 311-9964

Attorney Docket: 1663-I-CIP

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted via facsimile on March 31, 2008.



Fred H. Zollinger III